

ABOUT PUDs

WHO WE ARE:

PUDs are locally-controlled, not-for-profit utilities owned and held accountable by the communities we serve. PUDs operate our own systems and exist to meet the needs of our customer-owners. PUDs are governed by locally-elected Boards of Commissioners that live in the communities they serve.

WHO WE SERVE:

Twenty-eight public utility districts serve approximately one-million residential, business and industrial customers in 27 counties with not-for-profit services that keep rates down and reliability high while meeting the unique needs of the communities PUDs serve.



Our Services:

Public utility districts provide electric, water, sewer and wholesale telecommunications services. As not-for-profit, consumer-owned utilities, PUDs focus on the needs of customers, not profits. PUDs provide affordable services and provide programs that help customers maintain comfort in their homes and remain profitable in their businesses while conserving resources.

Our Roots:

Washington voters gave themselves the right to form public utility districts in 1930 when they passed Initiative No. 1. Private power companies refused to bring electricity to farms and rural communities early in the 20th century, so the Washington State Grange led the effort to give counties the right to form PUDs. The state law governing PUDs is RCW 54.



Combined PUD Data

(Based on 2012 operating year, summary data below does not include Snohomish PUD)

TOTAL CUSTOMERS

Electricity: 634,298
Water: 103,910
Sewer: 4,831
Telecommunications: 24,597*
* via retail service providers

LINE MILES INSTALLED

Electricity: 33,264
Water: 2,678
Telecommunications: 5,299

SALES

Electricity: 24.3 million megawatt-hours
Water: 14.97 billion gallons

REVENUE FROM SALES

Electricity: \$1.3 billion
Water: \$58.18 million
Telecommunications: \$21.79 million

ANNUAL SALES PER CUSTOMER

Electricity: 38,347 kilowatt-hours
Water: 144,000 gallons

WASHINGTON PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION

WPUDA
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WATER

SERVING COMMUNITIES WITH WATER

PUDs provide water and water-sewer service in communities across the state, often specializing in rural and "satellite system" water service.

In Washington, there are more than 14,000 small water systems (100 or fewer connections). Through the years, primarily because of deteriorating infrastructure and regulations imposed by the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, owners of small water systems have asked PUDs for help. Acquiring and upgrading water and wastewater systems is expensive and challenging, but necessary for the people served by PUDs. As with all PUD services, water and wastewater service is provided on a not-for-profit basis, reflecting the actual cost of service.

WORKING FOR SAFE AND EFFICIENT SYSTEMS

WPUDA works with the state Health and Ecology Departments and the federal EPA on regulatory relief for PUDs providing services. In addition, WPUDA works with the Legislature on state water law reforms that will help PUDs provide safe and efficient water service. WPUDA also provides assistance in seeking state and federal grants for water systems.

WPUDA played a key role in passage of the Municipal Water Law in 2003. In October 2010, the State Supreme Court ruled in favor of the State of Washington and upheld the validity of challenged sections of the law. In particular, the Court upheld sections of the law that define "municipal water suppliers" as public and private water utilities that serve 15 or more residential connections. The court also affirmed that water right certificates based on volume of water that a water system can carry, rather than actual water usage, are "rights in good standing." The law protects the validity of numerous water right certificates held by water utilities serving homes and businesses in the state.

FAST FACTS*

- Eighteen PUDs in Washington provide water services to more than 103,000 customers. Eight of these PUDs provide wastewater/ sewer services to more than 4,800 customers as well.
- In 2012, PUD customers used 14.97 billion gallons.
- PUDs employ highly trained water system operators certified by the Department of Health.
- The majority of water systems operated by PUDs were originally community water systems that owners and customers were unable to maintain and turned over to their local PUD.
- Many water systems acquired by PUDs are 50+ years old and in need of major improvements. PUDs often depend on state and federal grants and low-interest loans to finance these improvements at an affordable cost for customers.

**Summary data does not include Snohomish County PUD*

